

Handout F-1: Infant

Jenny and Her Baby, Cameron

When Jenny got pregnant, her high school counselor told her about Early Head Start and she enrolled right away. She was glad to get help finding prenatal care. She even learned how good breast-feeding was and she planned to breast-feed her baby, even though none of her friends had. She hoped that having her baby in Early Head Start would also help her finish her education.

Now she's afraid that dream may not come true. Her baby, Cameron, was born premature and weighed only three pounds. His lungs were not developed and he was on a ventilator for almost three months. He ended up having pneumonia and other complications.

Cameron is still in the hospital but he's doing a lot better. He's breathing on his own and starting to take a bottle. Because of all the complications, Jenny couldn't breast-feed Cameron. But the nurses helped Jenny pump her breastmilk and freeze it during the first month so she could use it to bottle-feed him. The doctor said Cameron could go home from the hospital when he weighed five pounds. But Jenny would have to take him back to the clinic frequently to check his growth, development, and breathing because he might have chronic lung problems and developmental delays.

1. What is **Cameron** doing in his development as an infant? How might Cameron's condition affect his development as an infant?
2. What is **Jenny** doing in her development as a teenager and a new mother? How might Cameron's condition affect Jenny's development as a teenager and new mother? What concerns, fears, and questions might she have?
3. How can **Early Head Start** help Jenny and Cameron in their development?